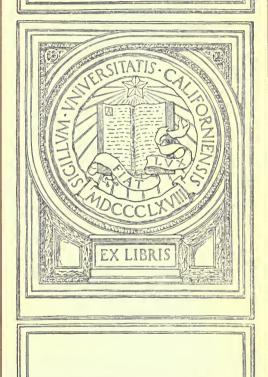
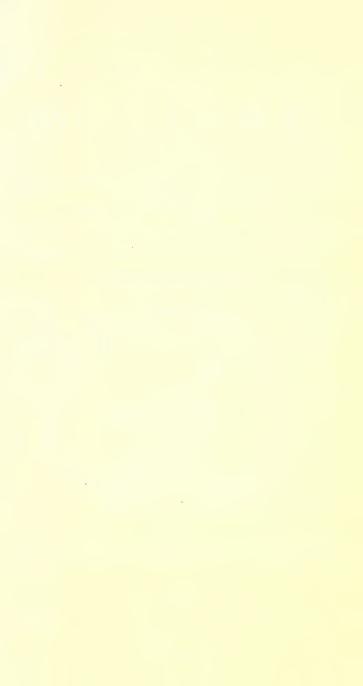


UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT LOS ANGELES





Digitized by the Internet Archive in 2007 with funding from Microsoft Corporation

A COMPLETE

VINDICATION

OF THE

MALLARD

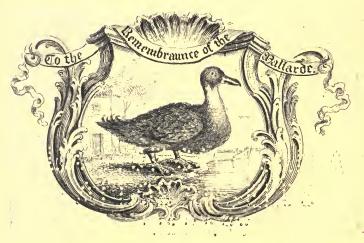
O F

ALL-SOULS COLLEGE,

Against the injurious Suggestions of the

Rev. Mr. POINTER, Rector of Slapton in the County of Northampton and Diocese of Peterborough.

The Second Edition.



Nonnulli tædio veritatis investigandæ cuilibet opinioni potiùs ignavi succumbunt, quàm explorandâ veritate pertinaci diligentiù perseverare volunt. Min. Fælix.

LONDON,

Printed for J. and J. RIVINGTON, in St. Paul's Church-Yard; and J. FLETCHER in Oxford. MDCCLI.

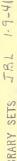
[Price One Shilling.]

by pen on an election

. . .

(iii)

538. Jan.14 1385.c





TO THE

Reverend Doctor * * * * *.

DEAR FRIEND,

of this Nature, when you reflect on the Discourses we have lately had together on the Subject of the ensuing Papers.

The serious and unaffected Concern you express'd at the ungenerous Treatment which the Mallard had receiv'd from the Pen of Mr. Pointer gave me the first Thought of appearing publickly in his Vindication. When I intimated this my Design at our next Conference, you not only encourag'd me to pursue it,

Λ 2

(as

(as you knew the Bent of my Studies had, for fome Time, employ'd me in unlocking the Store-houses of venerable Antiquity) but was pleased also to give some Directions which have been of great Service to me in the Execution of it. If there be any Merit therefore in this my Undertaking, it is in a great Measure to be ascrib'd to You, and on that Account You have an undoubted Title to this Dedicatory Acknowledgment.

I expect to hear it said by some People that it is but a poor Compliment to the Publick, to suppose it at leisure to attend to a Matter of so private a Nature, and of so little Concern to it. But furely Gentlemen who talk thus do not thoroughly confider the dreadful Confequences which may ensue, from suffering the most distant "Attack upon receiv'd and long establish'd Truths to go on unrepuls'd and unreprehended. "TRUTH (says a reverend and learned Divine, whose Name and Title-page have entirely slipt my Memory) " is a Lady of so tender and delicate " a Nature, that the most private Parts of her " ought to be handled with the greatest Pru-" dence and Discretion. For if Men are suf-" fer'd to exercise their Wantonness or Malice " in opposing or ridiculing even those Truths " which seemingly are of the least Importance to

" the publick Affairs of the World, this will " necessarily superinduce a Habit of Scepticism " upon their Minds, which, by easy Transitions, " may lead them on to Attempts of the like " fort, in Things of the utmost Consequence to " to the religious and political Interests of Man-" kind." Let me therefore ask whether we can receive any Assurance that the Succession of the Crown in his Majesty's Royal House; or, which is much the same Thing, our whole Constitution both in Church and State, shall not be attack'd by the same licentious Spirit which Mr. P. has exerted against the Mallard, unless it be timely corrected and expos'd, in its proper Colours, to the Abhorrence and Detestation of the World?

These are not Words thrown out at Random, but contain a reasonable Suspicion sounded as well on the Example of what hath already happen'd, as on our Conclusions from the Nature and Causes of Things. We have frequently been told by our Predecessors in All-Souls, that the first Marks of Insidelity which shew'd themselves in the samous Dr. Tindal were his speaking disrespectfully of the Mallard, and his laying hold of any Occasion of absenting himself from the annual Celebration of it. Had

any one at that Time exerted himself with a proper Zeal in the Defence of this venerable Bird, I think I may be bold to say, that the World would never have heard of those pernicious Books, The Rights of the Christian Church, or Christianity as old as the Creation.

And I have much Reason to be surprized that this was not done at that Time, when I consider that the learned Antiquarian Dr. Tanner, afterwards Bishop of St. Asaph (whose Ability for this Work cannot be questioned, and who was frequently heard to express great Veneration for the Mallard) was Fellow of All-Souls College, and Cotemporary with Dr. Tindal. But, alas! it too often happens that very ingenious Men, immers'd in the Study of Antiquities, have very unfortunately bestowed all their Pains on the most tristing and insignificant Subjects, and overlook'd those of real Concern and Importance to the World.

If the following Vindication shall be of any Service to the Cause for which it was undertaken; if the Licentiousness of writing too commonly made use of on serious and important Subjects shall be in any Measure repress'd by it; if Mr. Pointer shall be made sensible of his

Errors and retract them; and if you and the rest of my Friends, who best understand my Subject, and for whose Judgment I have the highest Esteem, shall thoroughly approve the Method I have made use of to bring about these good Essets; I shall then begin to think that I have employ'd my Pen in a Manner not wholly unworthy of the true Critick and Antiquarian, my Intention will be answered,—I shall have my Reward. And then (to continue the Words of our * Reverend Friend) the Cynick may bark and the Insidel may ridicule; the Malevolence of the one will call for my Contempt, the Folly of the other will provoke me to no Passion but that of Pity."

I am, dear Sir,

Yours fincerely, &c.

^{*} Preface to the Rev. Mr. B's Sermons.

ADVERTISEMENT.

To avoid all Suspicions of unfair and partial Quotation, it is thought proper, in this Place, to give the Reader the whole Passage relating to the Mallard of All-Souls, extracted from the 57th and 58th Pages of Mr. Pointer's Oxoniensis Academia.

- "4. Another Custom is that of celebrating their Mallard-Night every Year on the 14th of January, in Remembrance of a huge Mallard or Drake, found (as Tradition goes) imprison'd in a Gutter or Drain under Ground, and grown to a vast Bigness, at the Digging for the Foundation of the College.
- "Now to account for the Longævity of this Mallard; Mr. Willughby, in his Ornithology, tells us (Pag. 14. speaking of the Age of Birds) that he was affur'd by a Friend of his, a Person of very good Credit, that his Father kept a Goose known to be 80 Years of Age, and as yet sound and lusty, and like enough to have liv'd many Years longer, had he not been forc'd to kill her for her Mischievousness, worrying and destroying the young Geese and Goslings.
- "And my Lord Bacon in his Nat. Hist. Pag. 286. fays, The Goose may pass among the long Livers, though his Food be commonly Grass and such kind of Nourishment, especially the Wild-Goose: Whereupon this Proverb grew among the Germans, Magis Senex quam Ansernivalis, Older than a Wild-Goose.
- "And if a Goose be such a long-liv'd Bird, why not a Duck or Drake, since I reckon they may be both rank'd in the same Class, though of a different Species as to their Size, as a Rat and a Mouse?
- "And if so, this may help to give Credit to our All-Souls Mallard. However this is certain, this Mallard is the accidental Occasion of a great Gaudy once a Year and great Mirth, though the Commemoration of their Founder is the chief Occasion. For on this Occasion is always sung a merry old Song."

A COMPLETE

VINDICATION

OF THE

Mallard of All-Souls College, &c.

THE Controversies which have arisen betwixt Men of Learning on Points of Criticism and Antiquity, have too commonly been attended with Consequences greatly derogatory to the Honour of Literature, and destructive to the Peace of the Learned World. The Heat and Virulence with which Disputes of this Kind have been generally conducted, have afforded too just a Handle to the illiterate Part of Mankind, to accuse the liberal Arts themselves as ministring Occasions of Strife and Diffension, rather than, what is their boasted Character, polishing the Manners, and mollifying the Paffions B

Passions of the human Mind. It is therefore the indispensable Duty of every one who draws his Pen on Polemical Subjects, to take great Care not to prostitute his Character as an Author to the low Employment of heaping Abuse and Scandal upon his Adversary; and to admit no more Warmth into his Expressions, than what may be necessary to testify his Zeal for the Cause of Truth, which ought to be the Motive of all his Enquiries.

The Propriety of these Reslections will readily appear to any one who has been in the least engaged, either as a Reader or an Author, in Controversial Writings; and I have the more willingly touch'd upon them in the present Case, as they are a Lesson to myself, and a Caution for the regulating my Behaviour towards the Reverend Gentleman with whom I have now the Missortune to differ in Sentiments.

Mr. Pointer has long made a Figure in the learned World as a Chronologer, an Historian, an Antiquarian and an Almanack-Maker. Upon this Account I am highly sensible of the great Advantages he may, at first View, seem to have over me. He is in Possession

of a Reputation which he has been long heaping together; the World, I mean all the reading Part of it, is prejudiced in his Favour; his Judgment, Accuracy, Industry, and Candour, have hitherto been acknowledg'd by all: Nothing therefore but the great Force of Truth, the Evidences which lie before me for the clearing it up, and the Reputation of an injur'd Society, to which I have formerly had the strongest Obligations, shou'd have drawn me to enter the Lists with him. And I trust that the Goodness of my Cause will compensate for the want of Skill in it's Advocate.

I shall now, without farther Preface, procede to the Business of these Papers.

In the 57th Page of Mr. Pointer's last Performance *, where he is discoursing of the Customs of All-Souls College, he has the following Words.—" Another Custom is that of "celebrating their Mallard-Night every Year, " on the 14th of January, in Remembrance

B 2

of

^{*} Intitled Oxoniensis Academia: Or, the Antiquities and Curiosities of the University of Oxford, &c. London: Printed for S. Birt, &c. 1749.

" of a huge Mallard or Drake, found (as "Tradition goes) imprison'd in a Gutter or

" Drain under Ground, and grown to a vast

" Bigness, at the digging for the Foundation

" of the College.

"Now to account for the Longævity of this Mallard; Mr. Willughby, in his Orni"thology, tells us (Pag. 14. speaking of the Age of Birds) that he was assured by a
"Friend of his, a Person of very good Credit, that his Father kept a Goose known to
be 80 Years old, and as yet sound and lusty,
and likely to have lived many Years longer,
had he not been forced to have killed her
for her Mischievousness, worrying and destroy-

" for her Mischievousness, worrying and destroying the young Geese and Goslings.

"And my Lord Bacon in his Natural Hiftory, pag. 286, fays, The Goofe may pass among the long Livers, though his Food be commonly Grass, and such kind of Nourishment, especially the Wild-Goose.—

"And if a Goofe be fuch a long-liv'd Bird, why not a Duck or a Drake, fince "I recken they may be both rank'd in the

" I reckon they may be both rank'd in the

" same Class.---

Thus the Mallard of All-Souls whose Remembraunce has, for these three Centuries, been held in the highest Veneration, is by this forg'd Hypothesis of Mr. Pointer's degraded into a Goose, or, at least, rank'd in the same Class with that ridiculous Animal; the whole Story on which the Rites and Ceremonies of the Mallard depend, is represented as merely traditional; more than a Hint is given of the Mischievousness of the Bird, whatever he be; and all this founded on a pretended Longævity; in support of which Fiction the great Names of Lord Bacon, and Mr. Willughby are call'd in, to make the vilifying Insinuation pass the more plausibly upon the World.

We live in an Age when the most ferious Subjects are treated with an Air of Ridicule; when every Man supposes that he has a Right of thinking as he pleases on any Question, and of writing and speaking whatever he thinks. I will not pretend to say what Restraint ought to be laid on this Spirit of Licentiousness; forry I am to observe, that though heretofore it was the Characteristic only of the young and giddy Libertine, it has of late mixed itself with some graver Characters, and infected, as in the present Case, even the Divine and the Antiquarian.

Antiquarian.—But I shall go on to set this important Affair in its true Light, and for that Purpose I shall produce such Authorities as shall entirely subvert Mr. Pointer's Scheme, and such as shall be sufficient to convince the most obstinate Incredulity.

And first I shall beg Leave to transcribe a Passage from * Thomas Walsingham, a Monk of St. Alban's and Regius Professor of History in that Monastery about the Year 1440. This Writer is well known among the Historians for his Historia Brevis written in Latin and publish'd both by Camden and Archbishop Parker: But the Tract I am quoting is in English, and intitled, Ds wonderful and surprising Eventys, and, as far as I can find, has never yet been printed. The eighth Chapter of his fifth Book begins thus.

Ryghte wele worthie of Note is thilke famous Tale of the All-Soulen Pallarde, the whiche, because it bin aced in our Daies, and of a suretye vouched unto me, I will in sewe Wordys relate.

^{*} See Nicholfon's Historical Library.

Whenas Henrye Chichele the late renount ed Arth-Bishape of Cantorberge had minded to founden a Collidge in Oxenforde, for the hele of his Soule and the Soules of all those who veryshed in the Warres of Fraunce, fighteing naliantlye under our most gracious Henrye the fifthe, moche was he distraughten concerning the Place he muhte choose for thilke Purpose. Dim thinkyth some whylest how he monte place it withouten the eastern Porte of the Citie, both for the Pleasauntnesse of the Meadowes and the clere Streamys therebye runninge. Agen him thinkyth odir whylest howe he mote builden it on the northe Side for the heleful Avre there coming from the Fieldis. Rowe while he doubteth thereon he dremt, and behold there apperyth unto him one of righte godelye Personage, savinge and adviceing as howe he myghte placen his Collidare in the Dinhe Strete of the Citie. nere unto the Chirche of our blessyd Ladie the Virgine, and in Witnesse that it was fowthe and no vain and deceitful Phantafie. molled him to lave the first Stane of the Foundation at the Corner which turnyth towards the Cattys-Strete, where in delvinge he myahte of a Suretve finde a schwoppinge Mallarde imprison'd in the Sinke or Sewere. wele yfattened and almost ybosten. Sure Token

Token of the Thrivaunce of his future Tok-lidge! *

Moche

* Walsingham takes Notice of the Goodness of the Omen from the great Size and Fatness of the Mallard, to wit, that it was a fure Token of the Prosperity of the future College. We may go farther, and observe that even without this Circumstance, which, to be sure, is no despicable one, the Invention of the Mallard must have been esteemed a very happy Augury. Ducks, both male and semale, have always been rank'd amongst the Birds of good Fortune, and held, in some Measure, facred by our best Ornithologists. It is a very remarkable Story which Aldrovandus tells us of the Duck which us'd annually to attend the Feast of St. Nicholas, at Montfort in France, and sacrifice one of her Ducklings to the Shrine of that Saint. Take it in his own Words.

In ea Gallia parte, que olim sub Venetorum, Morinorum, que nomine censebatur (nunc Britanniam dicunt) prope urbens Redonensem oppidum est Monsfortis nomine, ubi Decembri mense cum S. Nicolai solennia celebrantur, a parvo lacu non longe ab oppido, ea hora, qua vel missa, vel vespertinæ orationes cantantur, Anas templum init cum tredecim pullis; quæ posteaquam aram circumdedit, ad eum lacum regreditur, uno pullorum, quos secum veniens duxit, deficiente, neque verò quo is se recipiat intelligitur. Quod si quis, ut rei experimentum faciat, aut quia rei nullam fidem habeat, comprehendere aut occidere tentaverit, confestim rabie corripitur, ac moritur, aut in gravem morbum subitò incidit. Our Author goes on to assure his Reader that no Doubt cou'd be made of the Truth of this Story, and appeals particularly to the Testimonies of Baptista Campofulgosus, and Gaudentius Merula. (Aldrovandi Ornithol. Lib. 19.)

Woche doubteth he when he awoke on the Pature of this Uisson, whether he mote give hede thereto or not. Then advisyth he thereon with monie Docters and learned Clerkys, who

The following Circumstance which we have from Andreas Fulvius is still more pertinent to the present Case. We find that even the brazen Figures of Ducks and Mallards which were discover'd in laying the Foundation of a Church at Rome, were thought to portend so much good Luck, that they were laid up among the Treasures and Relicks of that Church.—Dum templum S. Mariæ in Aquiro Anastasius Papa conderet, æreæ Anates in fundamentis ejus reperiebantur, quæ ee in templo etiamnum videntur. (De verbis antiq. Lib. 4.)

Nardini (P. 375 of his Roma Antica) supposes these brazen Figures to have belong'd to the ancient Temple of Juturna, to whom, probably, as she was a River Deity, these Birds were facred.—A very great Curiosity of this Kind, being an antique glass Figure of a Mallard, hath, I hear, been lately found amongst the Ruins of one of Chichele's Foundations at Higham Ferrers in Northamptonshire, and presented to All Souls College by the Rev. Gentleman who had the good Fortune to discover it.

On the other Hand it hath been observ'd to forebode some very grievous Disaster, when these social and domestic Birds have on a sudden less the usual Place of their Residence. A notable Instance of the Truth of this Observation we have from the afore-quoted learned Ornithologist.——Anates domesticas (says he) circa annum a nato Christo 1527, domestica manfuetudinis oblitas, & subitò efferatas, sylvas petiisse in Vindelicis annalibus legitur; & subsecutam inselicem promiscua multitudinis in Syriam navigationem, domi famem, & pessem. (Aldrov. Ornith. ibid.)

C

all sepde howe he oughte to maken Trial upon it. Then compth he to Oxenforde, and on a Dave fir'd, after Masse sepde, proceedeth he in solemne wose, with Spades and Wickares for the nonce provided, to the Place afore spoken of. But long they had not digged ere they herde, as it myghte seme, within the wam of the Erthe horrid Strugglinges and Flutteringes, and anon violent Duaakinges of the diareavd Wallarde. Then Chichele lyfteth uv his hondes and lepth Benedicite, &c. &c. Powe when they broughte him forth behold the Size of his Bodie was as that of a Bustarde or an Daridge. And moche wonder was thereat, for the lycke had not been seene in this Londe, ne in onie odir.

Here we have the Matter of Fact prov'd from an authentic Record, wherein there is not one Word faid of the Longævity of the Mallard, upon a Supposition of which Mr. Pointer has founded his whole Libel. The Mallard, 'tis true, had grown to a great Size. But, what then? Will not the Richnesse and Plenty of the Diet he wallowed in very well account for this, without supposing any great Number of Years of Imprisonment? The Words of the Historian, I am sure, rather discourage any such Supposition. Sure Token,

fays he, of the Thrivance of his future College! Which feem to me to intimate the great Progress the Mallard had made in fattening, in a short Space of Time. But, be this as it will, there is not the least Hint of a Goose in the Case. No: The impartial Walsingham had far higher Notions of the Mallard, and could form no Comparison of him, without borrowing his Idea from some of the most noble Birds, the Bustard and the Ostridge.

I shall not usurp upon the Reader's Time and Patience by producing any more Evidences of this Kind, as I take this of Walfingham to be fo full and clear in itself that it wants no Support nor Explanation; and tho' a few minute Circumstances relating to this great Event, which are not here mention'd, might be retriev'd by a Variety of Quotations from other Authors, yet I must confess that I never met with any one fingle Account of this Affair so compleat and confistent in all its Particulars. Here therefore I rest my Historical Proof, and procede to one of a different Nature, which will reflect great Honour upon my Subject, and, in the unfolding of which, I shall have an Opportunity of correcting the Blunders of former Commentators, who have loft themselves in the Mazes of

C 2

Errour.

Errour, for Want of that Affistance which the foregoing Piece of *History* might have supply'd them with.

There are few Nations in Europe but what have boafted of prophetical Writings or Traditions peculiar to themselves, such as have been deliver'd down for many Ages from Father to Son, and contain, or feem to contain, in them, the legible Traces of every War, Pestilence, Revolution, Famine and Earthquake that have affected the Fortune of that Country they relate to. Thus the Romans had their Sibylline Verses; the French boast of their Nostradamus; our Fore-fathers, for many Centuries, placed their Faith in Merlin; as we, their Sons, I mean all the loyal and well-affected Part of us, do in Nixon, or rather in Mr. Oldmixon's Edition of him. I shall not give my own private Opinion of the Reasonableness of this Kind of Faith, as I don't chuse to draw upon myfelf the Laughter of those Scoffers with which the Age we live in too much abounds; but if any of these Gentlemen shall find themselves ready to burst at the first mentioning of it, I shall only defire them to moderate their Mirth, till they have attended me through the following short Piece of Criticism; by which Time, I will

I will engage to have gain'd their Wonder, and Silence, if not their Belief. *

Whoever has feen the # Collection of English Prophecies publish'd in Folio, Lond. 1666, may possibly remember the following Fragment and the unfatisfactory Account there given of it. The Compiler of that Collection ascribes it to Merlin. I cannot, for my own Part, but join with those who believe it to be of a much later Date, as I think the Reasons urged for this Opinion are much more cogent than any thing I have feen advanced against it. There is not, however, any Room to suppose it a Forgery of any later Time than the Year 1437, when the College of All-Souls was founded; for, had that been the Case, we should doubtless have feen it applied to the Story of the Mallard,

^{*} If any Gentleman hath a ferious Mind to have his Faith strengthen'd, with regard to this kind of Prophecy, I would recommend to him a Perusal of the Appendix to the Rev. Mr. Fortin's Remarks on Ecclesiassical History, where he may be equally entertain'd and improv'd with, what Mr. Warburton thinks a Curiosity deserving to be known, the Visions of Rice Evans.

[‡] Printed for John Hill and Henry Barker.

on account of which it must have been made. For I can hardly conceive that any Man would be at the Pains of inventing and framing a mock Prophecy, without going through with the Business, and taking a full Enjoyment of the Imposture by the Application of it. The Verses I am speaking of run thus:

Talhen Inglonde's King ore Reaulme of Fraunce shall reigne

And Brittan noughte by all her armes thall gayn, The Preest for past and future soules thalf care: And chaunge for Praiers æle Councile of the Warre.

Th' imprison'd Birde shall vaunt his Libertie, The Earthe shall quake—

No Words could more precifely point out the Time, when this Transaction of the Mallard happen'd, than those of the two first Verses. Henry VI. the then reigning King, had been crown'd and acknowledg'd King of France in Paris, and the Sum total which this Nation gain'd by that Conquest, will, I suppose, be own'd by every modern Politician, to be fully express'd in the second Line.

The Preest for, &c.] In these two Verses we have the Account of Chichele's founding

his College almost literally describ'd. I would not be thought to hint here that there is any Thing particular or furprizing in the Priest's caring for the Souls of Men. No: I have too great a Veneration for the Clergy, to think of throwing fuch a Slander upon their Function. But the Rev. Mr. Pointer himself will own, that the Circumstance of caring for past and future Souls is very precise and descriptive if applied to this Transaction; and the Propriety of this Application will be still more evident, when we reflect on what is faid in the fecond Line of changing for Prayers the Councils of the War, which was exactly the Archbishop's Case, who had been very instrumental in advifing King Henry V. to affert his Title to the Crown of France by Arms, * and was probably induc'd to found his College by way of expiating for the Blood spill'd in that Contest.

(Arthurus Duck, in Vità Chichlæi.)

^{*} Porrò universos suos alumnos justit Hen. 5ti. Th. Clar. Ducis, procerum, militumque qui in bello Gallico occubuissent, et Christianorum demùm omnium memoriam celebrare inter divina officia pro ratione temporum peragenda: religione uti videtur perculsus, quod illius belli author et suasor fuisset, in quo homines innumeri animas effudissent, ideoque Collegium suum Animarum omnium sidelium defunctorum de Oxonia appellari justit.

I doubt not but that my Reader hath anticipated the remaining Part of my Explanation, and begins to think all farther Comment unnecessary. But in return for my Civility, in admitting him so soon behind the Curtain, I hope he will have Patience to stay out the Entertainment; especially when he considers that as this *Prophecy* has hitherto been usurp'd by a different *Hypothesis*, and interpreted upon another Plan, it is incumbent upon me to eject the old Claimants before I can reckon myself in full Possession of it.

Th' imptison'd Birde, &c.] Here, according to my System, we have an express Prediction of the Release of the Mallard.—But let us examine impartially what hath been urg'd in favour of another Explication.

Mr. Lilly, Dr. Dee, and others, have agreed that the imprison'd Bird must mean the famous Charles V. Emperor of Germany, prefigur'd here by the Bird, that is the Eagle, which every one knows to be the Ensign of the Empire. This Prince, say they, was taken Prisoner by the French King, Francis I. and carry'd into France, where he was detain'd a whole Year, at the End of which

this *Prophecy* was fulfill'd by the Treaty which procur'd his Liberty.—In answer to which, I beg that the following Particulars may be duly consider'd.

- 1. That during the long Reign of Charles V. (which was cotemporary with those of our Henry VIII. Edward VI. Queen Mary, and Part of Queen Elizabeth's) not one of our English Monarchs had any Pretensions to the Crown of France. This Objection ought to have startled our wife Expositors from the very Circumstance which they mention of his being taken Prisoner by a French King.
- 2. It will not be eafy, upon this Supposition, to find out who the Priest was that was so sollicitous for the Welfare of past and future Souls. The Reformers of those Days may indeed be said to have taken great Care of the future Souls, by the Care they took in purifying the Religion of their Country from the Dregs of Popery, but the Romish Clergy who are the only People that pretend to manage the Affairs of the past, that is the Souls of those that are dead) were never more abandon'd and profligate, as might easily be prov'd from the Histories of those Times.

D

3. The

3. The last Words of the *Prophecy* seeming very positively to intend an *Earthquake*, our Expositors have been upon the high Search for one corresponding with this Imprisonment of *Charles the fifth*. But how unlucky have they been in this Particular? For, after all their Pains, they have been able to discover but one small Shock, during the whole Year, and that in *Italy*. And I shall leave it with my Reader to judge whether this Circumstance, in a Country where *Earthquakes* are, in some Seasons, as frequent as Hail-Storms are in *England*, can be supposed to be of such Importance as to deserve to be the Subject of a *Prophecy*. But,

Lastly, What must put an End to this Debate, and overthrow the whole Scheme of our Opponents, is this; that, by the concurrent Testimony of all the Historians, the Emperor Charles V. Never was taken Prisoner by Francis I. nor by any other Monarch; but on the contrary, that Francis was taken Prisoner by Charles at the Battle of Pavia, and sent into Spain, where he * was detain'd for the

^{*} See Mezeray's Abrogè Chronologique. Tom 7. P. 351.

Space of thirteen Months. — I am heartily griev'd that the Pursuit of my Subject and the Cause of Truth, have laid me under a Necessity of exposing the palpable Ignorance of these Gentlemen; yet, at the same Time, I cannot but say, that it gives me some Satisfaction to reslect that though Mr. P. has maliciously endeavour'd to traduce the Mallard into a Goose, others, equally skill'd with himself in History and Criticism, have agreed to mistake him for an Emperor, or an Eagle.

The Earthe shall quake, &c.] These Words will readily be explaned by looking back on our Quotation from Walsingham, where he mentions the violent Quakinges of the distressed Mallarde pent up within the Bowels of the Earth. Let us restore therefore the original Reading, The Earthe shall Duaake.

Thus, you see, to the Honour of true Criticism, by the easy Restoration of one Letter, which had been dropt, I suppose, by the Negligence of Transcribers, this very difficult Passage is reconcil'd to the Context, all Obscurities are clear'd up, and to the great Joy of myself and the Reader, we have got rid of the Earthquake.—We cannot but ob-

ferve

ferve here that this Circumstance of the Earth's quacking, or, as it is better spelt in our old English, Duaakeinge, entirely destroys Mr. Pointer's Scheme of the Goose; as this Expression cannot with any Propriety, be apply'd to that Bird, or indeed to any other but a Duck, or a Mallard.*

In fluviisque natans forte tetrinit Anas;

and Alciatus by that of garrire,

Garrit in illarum se recipitque gregem;

and for which J. C. Scaliger adopteth the Epithet quiritatrix,

Herbilis Anser, atque Anas quiritatrix;)

is like the Loquacity of some other Parts of the Creation, confin'd entirely to the Females, and that the Mallard never quacketh, or (as this Gentleman chuseth to write it) doth Duaake.

W.

Notwithstanding the petulant Affurance, with which this Note

^{*} We see here a sad Instance of the Want of a general Knowledge, and general Reading. Our Author's favourite Scheme in the Explication of this Prophecy, which he flatters himself to be so well grounded as not to be shaken by the Force of any Criticism, may be destroy'd by an Observation which his own, or any honest Farmer's Wife in his Parish, might have help'd him to. Had he condescended to have consulted them upon this Subject, they would have assured him that the Loquacity of Ducks, which we commonly call Quacking (which the Author of Philomela expressed by the Word tetrinire,

I am not conscious to myself that I have overstrained any Part of the foregoing Explication

Note hath been introduc'd into the World, and handed about with an Air of Triumph, among the Critics, I will be bold to affirm that it hath as little Truth or Reason to support it, as any that ever appear'd at the Bottom of a Page of Shakespear. Cou'd it be prov'd that the male Duck or Mallard never quacks, it would indeed take away the very Key-stone of my critical Building, and the whole must consequently fall to the Ground. But, from the best Enquiries I have been able to make, and the little Reading I have had the Opportunity of bestowing on this Subject, I am so far from being inclin'd to give up the Point, that I am, from every Consideration, more and more convinc'd of the Truth and Stability of my System.

The Mallard, 'tis well known, is a very grave, and folemn Bird, - Admodum lente incedit (fays Aldrovandus) ut quandam gravitatem præ se ferre videatur; and it had been very absurd in Nature, and very inconsistent with the Decorum and Oeconomy of all her other Works, had fhe made him, at the fame Time, a noify, loquacious, and babling Animal. But is it, for this Reason, to be concluded that he has no Voice at all? It will be found upon Enquiry, to be far otherwise. The Mallard, as I am well affur'd, upon any great Emergency or pressing Distress, exerts a very strong and fonorous Throat. And this was the Case of the Mallard of All-Souls; and the Consideration of this Circumstance will lead us to observe a very great Propriety in Walfingham's Manner of relating this Story.—But long they had not digged (fays he) ere they herde, as it mote seme, within the Wam of the Erthe, horrid Strugglinges

eation in order to fuit Things to my own Purpose. I would fcorn to impose upon the World

glinges and Flutteringes, and ANON (i. e. after every other Method of Complaint had fail'd) violent Quaakinges of the distressyd Mallarde.

But to determine this Question to the Satisfaction of the Learned, let us go on to examine what the most celebrated Philosophers and Inquirers into Nature have observed on this Head. Aristotle, Pliny, and Solinus have said nothing on the Quacking either of Ducks or Mallards; so that all we can gather from them is, what indeed is a great Presumption in our Favour, that they, curious and inquisitive as they were, had never heard of this notable Difference between the Males and Females of this Species of Birds.——But, to come a little lower. Aldrovandus, whom we have before quoted, who is the most famous of our more modern Naturalists, and who, according to M. Bayle, spar'd no Pains or Expence in his Researches, hath given us a Philosophical and Anatomical Account of this Kind of Vociferation.

Vocem Anas (fays he) cur tam acutam, atque magnam edat, cum apud meipsum mirarer, eam dissecui, causam ejus scrutaturus, haud dubiò ex arteriæ asperæ sigurâ, quam sanè diversam esse ab aliis reperi. Quà igitur bisariam divaricatur in plumones, vesicam quandam habet duram, cartilagineam, concavam, ubi major apparet dextrorsum vergentem.—He then goes on to describe these Parts more particularly by the Help of a Copper Plate, and imputes, as we see here, the great Strength of the Voice to this bard, cartilaginous, concave Substance. It doth not appear, indeed, from the Words

World by dif-ingenuous Mifrepresentations, for the sake of establishing a favourite Hypo-thesis.

Words of Aldrovandus himself, whether the Bird he diffected were a Duck or a Mallard; and it feems that he was not apprehensive of any Difference, in this Point, between them. But by comparing this Account with a Paffage or two in Mr. Pointer's Friend Willughby, it is evident that it must have been a Mallard or Drake. " The " Drake (fays this Author, B. 3. Chap. 4. Sect. 1.) hath " a certain long Vessel or Bubble at the Divarication of "the Wind-pipe, which we call a Labyrinth."—He feems indeed a little dubious (B. 1. Ch. 2.) in accounting for the Use of it: But the most probable Conjecture he makes coincides with the Opinion of Aldrovandus, viz. "That it ferves to increase the Force of the Voice." And afterwards, in the same Page, he expressly confines (from the Information of a curious and ingenious Friend) this additional vocal Organ in Birds, " to the Cocks of the " broad-bill'd or Duck-kind." So that, we fee, if either Sex can pretend to a Superiority in Force and Energy of Voice, it feems, from the connected Testimony of these two Ornithologists, most eminently to belong, not to the Duck, but to the Mallard.

But let us attend to our Author (Aldrovandus) when he talks expressly of the Quacking of Mallards, and the Difference between the Note of the male and female Duck. Anates mares—quorum (says he) vox rauca at gravis oft, fæminarum acutior, ut quidam putant;—this, it seems, was the Opinion of some, that the Quack of the Mallard was hoarse and deep, and that of the Duck more sharp and piercing. But there is a very great Name,

thefis. I think I may fay, without Prejudice, that if this Prophecy be not fulfilled by the furprizing

no less than that of Albertus Magnus, which subscribes to the opposite Sentiment.—Et est (says he, Lib. 23. de naturis avium) vox fæminæ crassior, et vox maris acutior, in omni anatum genere.—But, be this as it will, there is no Hint given that it ever was the Opinion of any Sect of Natural Philosophers that the Mallard never quack'd: And, accordingly, Aldravandus goes on, speaking of the whole Duck-kind, to observe,—Hoc autem præter omnem controversiam est, aves esse valdè clamosas, unde Pontanus de garrulo quodam ait—

Hic clamore grues vicerit, atque Anates.

Had there been any Truth in this Observation of the Taciturnity of the Mallard, I know of no Author so likely to have taken Notice of it as our Oxford Philosopher Wotton de Differentiis animalium; and yet there is not the least Trace of it to be found in him. He remarks in his 149th Ch. (De anatino genere)—Anati gula tota ampla et lata est, and all the Difference he observes, between the Male and Female, is—Anas mas major est fæmina, et colore magis vario. From whence it ought rather to be inferr'd that, as the Mallard must necessarily have the wider and larger Throat, it should seem probable that his Voice might be proportionably strong and sonorous.

I shall close these Authorities with enother Passage from Mr. Willughby, wherein he notes the only Difference he had observed between the Duck and the Drake, and shews himself as ignorant as Wotton with regard to the Quacking.

—" Between the Duck and the Drake there is this Dif-

(33)

furprizing History of the Mallard, it never was and never will be fulfilled to the End of the

I might have given a very short, and, perhaps, unexceptionable Answer to this ingenious Criticism, had I been pleas'd to have observ'd, that the whole History of this Transaction, as well as the Prophecy, appears to have something in it supernatural and miraculous, and that, when Things were in this Train, it could not feem in the least unreasonable that the Mallard of All-Souls (though dumb all his Life before) shou'd be allow'd, in that distressed State, to break out into violent Quackings. To have corroborated this Supposition I might have quoted from Aulus Gellius (Lib. 5. Cap. 9.) the Instance of the dumb Son of Cræsus; nay, had I allow'd myself the Liberties which have been taken by some late Differtators, on very trifling and very nasty Subjects, I need not have confin'd myself to profane History. But I scorn to act so unphilosophically as to shelter myself behind an Hypothesis of this Kind, when the bare Confideration of the physical Qualities, Causes, and Differences of Things, is abundantly sufficient, in this Case, to unravel every Difficulty:

Non tali auxilio — — — — — nec dignus vindice nodus.

I ought now to apologize to my Reader for detaining him to long on this Subject, as to have fwell'd this Note E. almost

[&]quot; ference, that he hath growing on his Rump certain erect

[&]quot;Feathers reflected backwards toward his Head, which she hath not." (B. 3. Ch. 4. S. 1.)

the World. "If you have a Lock (faith the "ingenious Dr. Burnet in his Theory of the "Earth) that confifts of a great deal of Work-" manship, many Wards and many odd Pieces" and Contrivances, and you find a Key that "answers to them all, and opens it readily, 'tis "a thousand to one that 'tis the true Key, "and was made for that Purpose."

But it is Time to return to our Author, who pursues his *Invectives* against the *Mallard*, by describing him (under the Character of the old Goose) as a very mischievous Bird, that ought to be kill'd. I remember to have seen

almost into a Dissertation. But when he considers the Importance of the Question that hath lain before us; that not only the Credit of this Vindication, but the hitherto unimpeached Veracity of Thomas Walsingham depends upon it, which, unless the Mallard be found to have quack'd, must fink and be lost for ever with that of the Lucians, the Geoffries of Monmouth, the Oldmixons, and the Burnets of History; and when he further considers that the Learned in Natural Science have already begun to divide into Parties upon it, and that very laborious Disquisitions and Discourses are probably, at this very Time, compiling to be laid before the next Meeting in C—ne C—t; he will not think it improper in me to have endeavour'd to set the Truth of the Case in a clear Light, nor that I have thrown away my Labour, or He his Patience.

a Letter of Archbishop Abbot's to the Warden and Fellows of All-Souls, wherein he accuses the anniversary Celebration of the Mallard as the Cause of some Riot and Disorder among the younger People of the College, and the fame injurious Sentiment Mr. P. hath adopted, and endeavour'd to infinuate, by the Expreffions of worrying and destroying the young Geefe and Goslings. And to give a better Countenance to this Infinuation, he is pleas'd immediately after to intimate to his Reader (as from Lord Bacon *) the Probability of its being a Wild-Goose. "The Goose (fays he) " may pass among the long Livers, though " his Food be Grass and such kind of Nou-"rishment, ESPECIALLY the Wild-Goose." Now that the Archbishop (whose Principles had too great a Tendency towards Puritan-

E 2

ism)

^{*} I have not given myself the Trouble of examining whether Mr. P. hath dealt ingenuously with his Reader in these Quotations, or not. Indeed it is not a Point of much Concern to our Debate. The Passages are to be consider'd, by us, as they lie in his Book, with that particular Turn towards Sarcassm and Satyr, which he hath very artsully thrown upon them. If they are genuine, he hath shewn his great Skill at Application, and, if they are not so, the Fertility of his Invention. In either Case the Slander is the same.

ism) should express himself with too much Acrimony against the Observation of a joyous Festival, howsoever innocent and significant the Institution of it might be, is not much to be wonder'd at; but, I own, I am greatly surpriz'd to find an Orthodox Clergyman, like Mr. Pointer, abetting the same Errours, and proposing (though obscurely) the same dangerous Innovations.

Mr. Pointer goes on thus-" However, this " is certain, this Mallard is the accidental "Occasion of a great Gaudy once a Year " and great Mirth-For on this Occasion " is always fung a merry old Song." --- Rem tam seriam, tam negligenter! ---- Wou'd any one but this Author have represented so august a Ceremony as the Celebration of the Mallard by those vulgar Circumstances of eating, and drinking, and finging a merry old Song? Doth he not know that the greatest States, even those of Rome and Carthage, had their Infant Foundations diftinguish'd by Incidents very much refembling those of the Mallard, and that the Commemoration of them was celebrated with Hymns and Processions, and made a Part of their Religious Observances? Let me refresh his Memory with a Circumstance

stance or two relating to the Head of Tolus, which was discover'd at the Foundation of the Capitol. The Romans held the Remembrance of it in the greatest Veneration, as will appear by the following Quotation from Arnobius, in a Fragment preserv'd by Lipsius " -quo die (fays he, speaking of the annual " Celebrity) congregati Sacerdotes, & eorum "Ministri, totum Capitolinum collem cir-" cumibant, cantilenam quandam facram de " Toli cujusdam capite, dum molirentur Fun-"damenta invento, recitantes. Deinde ad cæ-" nam verè pontificiam se recipientes, &c."— Part of this merry old Song (as Mr. P. wou'd call it) is preserv'd by Vossius in his Book De facris Cantilenis Veterum Romanorum. Chorus of it shews so much the Simplicity of the ancient Roman Poetry that I cannot forbear transcribing it for the Benefit of my Reader, as the Book is too scarce to be in every one's Hand. It runs thus:

Toli caput venerandum!
Magnum caput & mirandum!
Toli caput resonamus.

I make no Doubt but that every true Critick will be highly pleas'd with it. For my

my own Part, it gives me a particular Pleafure to reflect on the Resemblance there is between this *precious Relique* of Antiquity, and the *Chorus* of the *Mallard*.

Oh! by the Blood of King Edward, It was a swopping, * swopping Mallard!

The

* The Epithet of fwopping, or, as Walfingham writes it, schwoppings, is with great Propriety applied to the Mallard. The festival Song, or Ode of Commemoration, enumerates several Parts of him as remarkably deserving this Character. One Circumstance of this kind, which our Poet hath taken Care to celebrate, agrees exactly with what the Naturalist, whom we have already been so much oblig'd to, hath observ'd as very wonderful, and peculiar to this Bird. ——— Hoc verò (says he) in hac ave valdè mirum videri possit, quod membrum genitale tam magnum habeat, ut digiti unius crassitudinem quatuor verò aut quinque longitudinem æquet, sanguinis instar rubrum. (Aldrov. Ornith. L. 19. P. 85.)

Though probably nothing may be thought more honourable, by our modern Enquirers into Nature, than this Circumstance belonging to the Mallard, yet, I believe, I should not have mention'd it, but that I flatter myself it may be of some literary Use in explaining a Medal of the younger Faustina, the Wise of M. Aurelius; which hath hitherto bassled the Conjectures of the most knowing Antiquarians. The curious Reader may find it engrav'd (Pl. 49. Numb. 11.) in the Collection of the Dukes

(39)

The Greatness of the Subject, you fee, is the Thing celebrated in both, and the Man-

ner

of Arschot, publish'd by Gevartius. Let us hear what that experienc'd Antiquary faith of it.—Avis quædam (fays he) Concordiæ conjugalis typus. Pierius & Politianus cornicem esse putant. Forsan est Turtur, cujus nota in comparem fides; aut Columba, quod genus avium solet unius domûs consortia nosse. The Legend of this Reverse is CONCORDIA, and the Figure on it is (as our Author fays) fome Bird or other, and intended very probably as a Type of Conjugal Concord. I cannot conceive on what Reasons Pierius and Politian founded their Opinion of it's being a Rook or a Crow, Birds of hoarse and discordant Voices, and always believ'd to be of evil Omen. The Turtle and Pigeon are, indeed, very proper Emblems of Matrimonial Affection or Concord; but then, if we consider the Character of FAUSTINA, and the Manner in which she liv'd with her Husband, I think they will not do for our prefent Purpose. The Reverses we find of this Lady (particularly the famous one of the Gladiator, or Venus Victrix) are generally much more agreeable to the Reputation she bears in History. On lui donne (fays Tristan) es reverses de ses medailles, des devises si conformes a ses deportemens qu'il est bien aise de juger qu'elle n' y avoit rien de desguise en tout ce qui la concernoit. - An ingenious Friend, whom I have confulted on this Subject, feem'd inclin'd to think it a Phænix, and that Gevartius ought to have wrote, RARA quædam avis, conjugalis Concordiæ typus: But, if it be remember'd that the Phænix never had a Mate, and that he hath always been made use of on Coins as an Emblem of Duration, Perpetuity, or Eternity, I believe it will not be thought probable that he should, in this Place, at least, represent Matrimonial Concord. For ner of doing it is as nearly equal as the different Geniusses of the two Languages will permit. Let me hope therefore that Mr. P. when he exercises his Thoughts again on this Subject, will learn to think more highly of the Mallard than of a common Gaudy, or a Merry-making: For it will not be just to suppose that the Gentlemen of All Souls can have less Regard for the Memory of so noble a Bird, found all alive, than the Romans had for the dead Skull of the Lord knows whom.

As I am inclin'd to make this *Vindication* as fatisfactory as possible to all kinds of Readers,

my own Part, after my utmost Endeavours to divest myself of all Prejudice on this Occasion, I cannot but be perfuaded, that it was intended for a Mallard. The Figure on the Coin doth, I am fure, to any impartial Eye, more refemble this Bird than it doth a Rook or Crow, a Turtle, a Pigeon, or a Phænix. And if we lay together the Circumstance mention'd by Aldrovandus, with the Taste and Inclinations of the Lady, I think there can be no Doubt of the Propriety of the Emblem; especially if the Reader will be pleas'd to view it in that Light, in which, I own, I have always been fond of seeing it, viz. As a Device of FAUS-TINA's own chusing, and containing a modest Hint to the good Man her Husband, who (notwithstanding his particular Turn for moral Philosophy) might not have sufficiently consider'd this great Truth, That CONJUGAL JUSTICE is the best, and only sure Foundation of Conjugal Concord. I come now to confider an Objection, or two, which I am apprehensive may be made use of, by some *captious Critics*, to invalidate the History of the *Mallard*. And

First: It may be said that Arthur Duck, the Civilian, who wrote the Life of the Founder, and who, from his Relation to the Mallard (I mean as he was Fellow of All-Souls) ought to have been well acquainted with the History of him, hath pass'd it by, without bestowing one Word on an Event so wonderful and so nearly related to his Subject.—To which I answer; That every, even the least, Circumstance relating to the Mallard, hath hitherto been thought too sacred and mysterious to be communicated to the Publick and submitted to every vulgar Reader. Nothing but the manifest Necessity * of a Vindication

^{*} The Reader will be convinced of the Necessity of refuting Mr. Pointer's Libel in this public manner, by perusing the following Extracts from one of the foreign Biblique theques for the Month of June last; wherein he will perceive that the Literati abroad have for some Months been in Expectation of something of this Kind. This Writer, after giving us the Title of Mr. P's Work, goes on thus: Il y a long temps que Monsieur le Pointer de Skapton, à qui

dication of him from the unjust Aspersions thrown out by Mr. P. should have induc'd

me

nous devons cet Ouvrage, a etè bien connu à tout le monde savant, par plusieurs Livres ecrits avec une Diligence & Soliditie assez agreable aux Sujets dont ils traitent. Mais dans le Livre, dont nous agissous et dont vous venez de liser le Titre, il a tout d' un Coup, obscurci tous ses autres Ouvrages. C' est un Chef d' Oeuvre, &c. - After having descanted thus on the Praises of Mr. Pointer, he descends to a particular Consideration of the Work, and comes to the Point before us, on which he remarks in the following Manner. Il a decouvri que, &c. "He (M. P.) hath discover'd that " the celebrated Mallard of All-Souls College was not a " Matlard but a Goofe; or, at least, that from his Longa-" vity he must have had much of the Nature of a Goose " in him. What shall we say to this Affair? What will "the World think of this Discovery? It seems that a Reputation of 300 Years standing, is not sufficiently secured against the Pen of a Critic and Philosopher, austi " habile & adroit que Monsieur Pointer. The World is imof patient to hear what can be faid on the other Side of " the Question. The learned Members of that College " will certainly think themselves obliged to vindicate the "Character of their favourite Bird, and themselves and their Predecessors, from the Imputation of having, for fo " many Generations, impos'd upon the Credulity of an easy " and believing World."—This folemn Provocation must be part of my Excuse for employing some of the little Leisure I have from the necessary Attendance I owe to my Parish, a young Wife, and a growing Family, in exerting myfelf in Defence of a Society, of which I was, not many Years fince, an unworthy Member. And as I doubt not but that the Expectations

me to let the World into the Secret by this modest Defence, which, at the same Time I cannot but regard as a kind of Profanation of so venerable a Subject. I have however been very cautious not to divulge any Thing more than was absolutely necessary on this Occasion. The Silence therefore of Dr. Duck is rather to be esteem'd an Argument of his Respect and Veneration for the Mallard, than of his Neglect or Disbelief of his Story. But

2dly, It hath been objected by some pretended Well-Wishers to the Mallard, that it is to be lamented that this Story is not authoriz'd by the Founder himself; and that though the Proofs of it do indeed seem to be drawn from very great and irreproachable Authorities; and though the Rites and

Expectations of the fereign Literati will be thoroughly fatisfied by this Vindication, I do now publickly apply to the Authors or Compilers of the Nouvelles de la Republique des Lettres, the Journal des Scavans, the Bibliotheque Universelle, the Bibliotheque choisie, the Memores pour l'Histoire des Sciences & des beaux Arts, the Acta Eruditorum, the Universal Monthly Register, &c. &c. or any of them, who have been so complaisant to Mr. P. as to bestow their Eulogiums upon his Book, that they would, if they are willing to avoid the Imputation of great Partiality, immediately take proper Notice of this my Performance, and usher it into the World with its due Commendations.

F 2

Ceremonies

Ceremonies attending its anniversary Celebration are very fignificant and well adapted to the Institution; yet that Fellows of Colleges ought to be careful how they institute Solemnities and Observances in which they cannot be supported by their Statutes. To which it may be faid, that we are ready to prove, from incontestable Evidence, that H. Chichele himfelf instituted the Solemnity of the Mallard, In perpetuam rei Memoriam, and affisted perfonally at the first Celebration of it; and, though the Statutes be filent, yet frequent Hints are given of it in that Collection of his Letters which are still preserv'd in the Archives of the College. Particularly he begins his thirteenth Letter to Dr. Andrewe the first Warden thus --- Collegium meum bono Alite fundatum, &c. From whence it is plain that fome Bird, or other, had a Hand in the Foundation of the College, and what that Bird was hath, I hope, been demonstrated to every impartial Reader.—And this I should think fufficient for the Satisfaction of these very scrupulous Gentlemen.

Let me fpeak a Word or two more with Mr. P. before I conclude.

And here let me advise him, and all other Hypothetical Critics, and Philosophers, immediately to discard that false Method of Reafoning which hath fo often exposed them and their Systems to the Ridicule of the World. Nothing hath fo frequently frustrated the Enquiries of ingenious Men, or been so great a Hindrance to the Advancement of useful Knowledge, as the taking what we affect to call first Principles upon Trust, and arguing upon them, howsoever false they may be, as from Matters of Fact and Demonstration, Thus the Philosophers of the Golden Tooth * erected feveral Systems of natural and super-natural Causes to explane that wonderful Phænomenon; till unfortunately for them, their ingenious Disquisitions were put an End to by an inquisitive Goldsmith's demonstrating the said Tooth to be a mere Cheat and a Counterfeit. ‡

^{*} Histoire des Oracles par M. Fontenelle; Diss. 1. Ch. 4.

[†] The most elaborate Dissertation on this Subject is that of Horstius, Professor of Physic at Lipsic, who very wifely pronounces the Tooth to be partly natural, and partly supernatural. This curious Piece is intitled, Jacobi Horstii D. De aureo Dente maxillari Pueri Silesii; Primum, utrum ejus Generatio naturalis fuerit, nec ne: Deinde, an digna ejus Interpretatio dari queat. Lipsia, 1596.—At the End of it, the Author hath very pertinently subjoin'd a small Treatise, De Noctambulonum Naturâ, Differentiis, & Causis, &c.

Thus, in the last Age, the Gentlemen of the French Academy employ'd their Talents in accounting for the Warmth of vaulted Cellars in Winter and their Coolness in Summer: till one more acute than the rest, by the Affistance of a common Thermometer, convinced his Brethren that those subterraneous Rooms were nearly of the same Temperature both in Winter and Summer. Thus the Members of another Society, in the Reign of Charles the Second, began to be as ingenious in discovering the Reason why a Fish of five Pounds put into a Veffel of Water added nothing to the Weight of the faid Veffel, till that fagacious Monarch, who * fometimes honour'd their Meetings with his Presence, propos'd that the Vessel might be weigh'd in both Circumstances. And thus Mr. Pointer by taking the Longævity of the Mallard for granted, hath endeavour'd to establish thereon the Hypothesis of the Goose, in Opposition to all Truth and Testimony both Historical and Prophetiçal. I shall close this Head with a Reflection from M. Fontenelle, which I humbly recommend to the Confideration of Mr. Pointer. " Je ne suis pas si convaincu de nostre igno-

^{*} See Sprat's History of the R. S.

(47)

raison nous est inconnuë, que par celles qui ne sont point, & dont nous trouvons la

" raifon."

Let me farther advise him, if he thinks of answering this Vindication, to do it in a Manner worthy the Gravity of his own Character, and the Dignity of the Subject. It is too commonly the Case, in Writing as well as in Conversation, when Men are at a Loss for Reason and Argument, to endeavour to get off by raifing the Laugh on their Sides. But I hope Mr. P. hath fill fo much of the true Philosopher left in him as to disdain these iittle Arts. He will reflect that Things of this ferious Nature are not to be jested with, and that the Exercise of Wit and Imagination is so far from being of any real Affistance, that it is the greatest Obstruction to all solid Inquiries. He will confider, when he takes his Pen in Hand, whether he be able to destroy the venerable Authority of Thomas Walfingham; whether he can shew the least Shadow of a Forgery in the Prophecy I have produc'd on this Occasion; or the least Inconfistency or Absurdity in my Explication of it; and whether he be prepar'd to attempt this with with that ingenuous Frame of Mind, which is apt to yield to the Evidence of Truth, and not to be bias'd by any other Confiderations? An Answer drawn up upon these Principles; and with this Temper will deserve, and shall receive from me, a serious and candid Reply. And then let the learned World judge, whether the least Feather dropt from the Mallard, for such I have the Modesty to esteem myself, be not an Over-match for the best Quill he shall be able to pluck from his Goose?

But if, which I think may be expected from a Man of his Candour and Sagacity, he should be convine'd of his Errours by the Proofs I have here laid before him, I suppose it will not be thought unreasonable in me to defire him to make some public Acknowledgment of that Conviction. Opportunities of doing fo cannot be long wanting to a Gentleman fo conversant with the Press as Mr. Pointer is. However, if I may by allowed to hint the most proper Method of giving this Satisfaction, I would submit it to him whether he ought not, in the next Edition of his Chronological History, to distinguish the 14th of January in the Year 1437-8, as a Day bighly

bighly remarkable for that wonderful Event, the Invention or Release of the Mallard.

Much more might have been faid, in the Course of this Vindication, on the Danger and evil Tendency of Mr. Pointer's Method of writing on Things of fo ferious a Nature; especially from the Greatness and Authority of his Example, which may be too liable to be imitated by the many superficial and undiscerning Wits of the Age we live in. But the Reader will eafily perceive how cautious I have been not to expose my Adversary to the Refentment of the World, but have rather chofen to defend my Cause by plain, simple Narrative of Matter of Fact, than by throwing out any warm Reflections on his Views and Intentions. I cannot however forbear mentioning one other Instance to be met with in the Book now lying before us, from whence I am apt to fear that it is a fix'd Principle in Mr. Pointer to ridicule every Ceremony and folemn Institution that comes in his Way, howfoever venerable it may be for its Antiquity and Significance. Speaking (P. 39.) of the Boar's-Head of Queen's College, he fays, "Ano-"ther Custom is that of having a Boar's-Head, " or the Figure of one in Wood, brought up

"into the Hall every Year on Christmas Day." Now, notwithstanding this bold Hint to the contrary, it feemeth to me to be altogether unaccountable and incredible that a polite and learned Society should be so far deprav'd in its Tafte, and fo much in love with a Block-head as to eat it. But as I have never had the Honour of dining at a Boar's-Head, and as there are many Gentlemen more nearly concern'd and better inform'd, as well as better qualify'd, in every Respect, to resute this Calumny than I am, I shall avoid entering into a thorough Discussion of this Subject .- I know it is given out by Mr. P's Enemies that he hath been employ'd by fome of the young Seceders from that College, to throw out this Story of the Wooden-Head in order to countenance the Complaints of those Gentlemen about fhort Commons, and the great Deficiency of Mutton, Beef, &c. And, indeed, I must needs fay that nothing could better have anfwer'd their Purpose, in this Respect, than the proving, according to this Infinuation, that the chief Dish at one of their highest Festivals, was nothing but a Log of Wood bedeck'd with Bays and Rosemary; but surely this cannot be credited, after the University has been inform'd by the best Authority, and in the most most public Manner, that a young Nobleman, who lately compleated his Academical Education at that House, was during his whole Residence, not only very well satisfied but extremely delighted with the College Commons.

I have now done with Mr. P. and have little more to add than my Thanks to those learned Gentlemen, who have been so kind as to offer me their Assistance towards the compleating this Vindication of the Mallard.

"There is, faith Cicero, * a certain natural Connection between the polite Arts, where- by they are united in the Support of each other, as Members of the fame Family." And what he fays of the Arts, is equally true of the Artists themselves, I mean of all ingenious Pursuers of useful Truth and Learning. Of this I have received many remarkable Proofs in the Instance now before us. No sooner was it rumour'd abroad amongst my Acquaintance in the World of Literature, that I in-

Pro Arch. Poeta.

^{* —} etenim omnes artes quæ ad humanitatem pertinent, habent quoddam commune vinculum, et quasi cognatione quadam inter se continentur.

tended to undertake the Defence of the Mallard, than I immediately met with the greatest Encouragement from all Quarters to procede with my Defign. The Cause of the Mallard became the common Cause of all Men of Taste and true Learning. Some of these I think myself, out of Gratitude, obliged to particularize as far as I can suppose it will be agreeable to their Modesty.-The learned and ingenious Antiquarian B. W. Esq; and L L. D. was pleas'd to offer me the Use of many valuable Papers which he hath collected on this Subject, and particularly a compleat List of the Lords of the Mallard from the Foundation of the College to this Time.— The Reverend and ingenious Mr. W-e, the R——ffe L—n, who, fome Years ago, fo worthily retriev'd the Honour of the Berkshire White Horse, hath been pleas'd to tell me that if I wanted any thing in the Saxon way he should be very proud to furnish me with it.— The Rev. and learned Mr. S-n hath been fo good as to favour me with the Sight of a very fine Gold Medal * (on which he is now preparing

^{*} I cannot thoroughly agree with Mr. S. in his Explation of this Coin. In the Exergue are the following Let-

preparing a Latin Differtation) struck in Honour of the Mallard with a Galliard on the Reverse

ters, C. O. A. F. O. F. which he reads thus, Collegio Omnium Animarum Fausta Omnia Fiant. This I own to be very ingenious, but it does not sufficiently point out the Fact of the Invention of the Mallard, for which Purpose the Medal was certainly struck. I would therefore chuse to read it thus, Collegium Omnium Animarum Felici Omine Fundatum.

There is another of the fame Kind, but of Copper, in the Hands of the above-mention'd learned Antiquarian B—ne W—s, Efg; with this Variation, that the fame Letters are struck round the Edges instead of being in the Exergue. I am almost asham'd to mention how much, in my humble Opinion, Mr. W. has mistaken this Coin. He has plac'd it amongst his Traders (of which he has a very valuable Collection) and infifts that the Letters ought to be read backward and explaned thus, Francis Oliver Farrier At Oxford City. This Francis Oliver, (fays Mr. W.) besides his Business of Farriery, kept a publick House and liv'd at the Sign of the Swan. So, it feems, what we have supposed to be a Representation of the Mallard, on the Face of the Coin, is nothing but a Copy of the Picture on Frank Oliver's Sign-Post. I shall not stay to refute this Hypothesis, but shall refer the Reader to the Differtation above-mentioned, where he will find it done to his entire Satisfaction.

But if Mr. W. should still persist in denying the Honour of this Coin to the Mallard; if he is determin'd to make it a Trader, of the Name of Oliver; and if Mr. Oliver

Reverse of it, which he takes to be the same that was lost out of the * Cabinet of the great Peireskius when it was robb'd by his Father's Gardiner; the Loss of which was severely regretted by that Prince of Antiquarians to the last Hour of his Life.—But, above all, I am oblig'd to a Gentleman who dates his

must be a Farrier; where yet is the Necessity of perverting the Order of the Legende, and making use of a Licence never yet allowed in Inscriptions consisting merely of Initials? He hath, to my Knowledge, been long in fearch of a Trader from Fairford, to complete his Collection for the Towns of Gloucestershire. Why then will he not seize on this favourable Opportunity of finding one? Let me, at least, therefore obtain this from him, that he would think of promoting his own most important Designs, by reading it, for the future, according to the due Course of the Letters thus, C. O. A. F. O. F. i. e. Charles Oliver A Farrier Of Fairford. If he defires any farther Authority for this Interpretation, I am ready and able to give him as good Proofs that Charles Oliver liv'd at the Sign of the Duck in Fairford, as he can produce that his Brother Frank kept the Swan in the City of Oxford.

* The Reader may see a particular Account of this Robbery in the fourth Book of Gassendus's Life of Peireskius. I am surpriz'd at his making no Mention of this Gold Medal of the Mallard, especially as he takes Notice of some Coins and Gems of lesser Rarity; as the Egyptian Talent, or Arsinoe, the Sol d' Or of Kludovicus Pius, the Servius Sulpitius, the Action, &c.

Letter from Eton and affures me that he hath almost compleated an Elogium upon the Mallard, written in the choicest Latin, which he says shall be the Touch-stone of all the Elogiums that have ever yet been written, and a Pattern for all that shall be written hereafter. *

I have

* I ought to have made particular Mention, in this Place, of the kind Benefaction of the Gentleman at whose Expence the Copper-Plate Ornament of my Title-page was engrav'd, but that he hath given strict Orders to have his Name conceal'd. It is taken from an authentic Drawing in the Margin of Thomas Walsingham's MS. The Engraver hath done his Part very well for a modern Artist, though I think he hath not hit off that Air of Majesty which dignifies the Original.

The Tail-piece, which very aptly for my Purpose, represents the cutting up of the Goose, is copied from an old Hieroglyphical Stone on the Eastern Front of the Hall of Balliol College. The Reverend Personage, with a Knife in his right Hand, was undoubtedly intended for a Monk; and as the Learning of those Times, when the Hall was built, was entirely confined to that Set of Men, we have here very intelligibly typified to us the utter Demolition of Ignorance and Errour (i. e. the Goose) by the Introduction of Arts and Letters. The Reader will be fatisfied that this is no forc'd or arbitrary Construction, if he will be pleas'd to confult Pierius's Hieroglyphica, Pag. 174, de Ansere. That learned Author gives us a natural Reason, why the Figure of this Bird was always made use of by the ancient Ægyptians (the great Inventors of Hieroglyphical Learning)

(56)

I have not hitherto had Occasion to make
Use of any of these Assistances, and whether
I shall

Learning) to express Folly, Stupidity, &c. namely, from his great Aversion to the Laurel .- Aversum enim aded est a poeticis studiis Anseris ingenium, ut Phæbeum arborem Laurum, quam sibi exitialem, si ejus folia vescatur, intelligit, pertinacissime fugiat. So, it seems, however averse the Goose's Genius may be to Poetical Studies, we find that he is in some Sort of Favour with Apollo, and may be esteemed a very notable Physician, as the poisonous Qualities of of the Laurel-Leaf, one of the boasted modern Discoveries of the Faculty, appear to have been known to this filly Bird from all Antiquity .- But to return to our Hieroglyphick.—Eafy, natural, and well authoriz'd as my Explanation of it is, many Gentlemen of Learning, whom I have talk'd with on this Subject, have been fo gross as to imagine it to be only a Representation of a College-Cook, in his culinary Occupation, of cutting out a Commons. So far, indeed, there may be fome Truth in this, that from the Circumstance of the Goose appearing naked, and seemingly just taken from the Spit, the Rewards of Learning, a good Maintenance, the Founder's Allowance, or a fat Living, might be shadow'd forth to the young Student. But then this was but a fecondary Branch of Dostrine, and was not to be touch'd upon till the Hieroglyphical Precept of cutting up the Goofe had been comply'd with, in the more spiritual and refin'd Sense, I mean by a long and close Application to Study.—With this Comment upon it, I hope it will not appear to be an improper or infignificant Ornament of a House of Learning; and as the Engraving I have given of it may be of Use to preserve the Memory of fo valuable a Curiofity (whenever the worthy Society,

I shall hereafter must be determin'd by Mr. Pointer's recanting his Errors, or perfifting in the Defence of them. Indeed the last mention'd Favour, I mean the Elogium, may probably be of great Service to me whether he goes on with his Scheme, or not. For if, from the general Decay of true Taste, and a Difregard for the Caufe of Truth in Matters of the bighest Importance, this second Edition of my Vindication (for by the generous Patronage and Protection of his numerous Friends, as well as the malevolent Curiofity of the Enemies and Well-Wishers to the Mallard, we have, without it, been enabled to struggle through the first) should not happen to answer the reasonable Expectations of its Author and his Bookfeller, it may perhaps be adviseable to tack the faid Elogium to the remaining Copies, and by the Help of a new Title-Page, make a Third.

to which it belongs, shall be so devoid of all Taste for Antiquity as to exchange the good old Building, for the newfangled Resinements of modern Architecture) I am in great Hopes, that the Expence of it will be reimburs'd to me, by the, newly incorporated, Society of The Antiquaries of London.

CONCLUSION.

And now, kind Reader, fuffer me to congratulate Myself and Thee, if thou hast any Regard for Historical Criticism and genuine Antiquity, on the honest and, I hope, successful Efforts I have here made, to retrieve the blasted Credit of the Mallard, and the Honour of that House which owes its Foundation to him. Indeed it gives me great Pleasure to restect, that whilst some have been invidiously endeavouring to annihilate an * original British Empress, and have pursued their Malice so far as to disturb her Retirement in a Cell of a Royal Cabinet of Medals; and ‡ others, in Breach of all Decency, have been raking the B—gh—ses, and fouling their Hands in

^{*} A Differtation upon ORIUNA, faid to be Empress, or Queen of England, the suppos'd Wife of Carausius, &c. Lond. Printed for 7. Whiston and B. White. 1751.

[†] A philosophical Dialogue concerning Decency. To which is added, a Critical and Historical Differtation on Places of Retirement for necessary Occasions, &c. Lond. Printed for James Fletcher in the Turl, Oxford. 1751.

groping into the Cl-st-ls of the Ancients, it hath been my happier Employment, without giving Offence to the nicest Nostrils, to have cleanfed the noble Bird from the Dirt thrown on him by Mr. Pointer, (a worse Filth than that of the Sink from which he was at first releas'd) and to have engag'd my Talents in the Behalf of a Society to which I owe the far greatest Share of the Improvement I have made of them. I am very fenfible how utterly incapable I am of repaying all the Obligations I have to it. The Ease and Happiness I there enjoy'd, the fincere Friendships I there contracted, the chearful Hours, the heart-felt Mirth, and every focial Pleasure (the Loss of which, notwithstanding the many Comforts that attend the married State, I cannot recollect without some Degree of Regret and Disfatisfaction) shall always keep awake my Gratitude, and lay the strongest Claim to my Prayers for its Welfare and Prosperity.

And that some Token of my Zeal for its Service may remain to latest Successions, it is my ambitious Request that this little Tract may be kindly receiv'd into that noble Repofitory of Learning, which, with no unfavourable Omen, dates its Completion in the fame H 2

Year

Year with that of the Vindication of the Mallard. It will not, furely, be too great an Instance of Vanity, to expect that the HEARNS and the TANNERS, the à Woods and the WILLISES, who, I am inform'd, have already taken Possession of their Shelves in that superb Edifice, will eafily be perfuaded to close their Ranks and contract their Dimensions, and suffer one more British Antiquarian to squeeze into their Company: One, who though not quite equal to the least of them in Bulk, and Variety of Matter, may yet there claim some Respect, as well from the Propriety as Dignity of his Subject, and, I hope, from the Perspicuity, Accuracy and Integrity, with which he hath treated it.

And though many Prejudices may, for fome Time, remain against me, from the uncommon Character which my Antagonist hath hitherto supported in the Common-wealth of Letters, yet let me hope that when the Blaze of his Reputation; as a Writer, shall be quite extinguish'd, or at least so much abated as no longer to dazzle the Eyes of a prejudic'd and ill-judging World, Men may be brought to a more impartial Way of thinking on the Subject before us, and learn to prefer Truth

in her natural, unaffected Drefs, to Falshood and Errour though trick'd out with all the Embellishments of Conceit and Fancy.

But, whatever may probably be my Fate with this and the next Generation, yet will I flatter myself that when the present Age (modern as it now is) shall, after some Centuturies, be crusted all over with the reverend Rust of Antiquity, some suture Antiquarian may be able, with indefatigable Pains, to scrape off enough of it to discover my Name and Labours to the Curiosity of his Cotemporaries, and charitably register both it and them in the Fasti of Our Athens.

And may I further hope that this my honest Attempt may not only redound to the Fame and Reputation of its Author, but, in some Sort, to the Emolument of his numerous and burthensome Family? That, at least, when my eldest Son Dick (who is now in his ninth Year, and, by the uncommon Industry of a Country-Schoolmaster, hath already been slogg'd into a thorough Taste of the Beauties of Cato's Districts, and Corderius's Colloquies) shall, after doubling his present Age under the same wholsome

wholsome Course of Discipline, have harden'd his Gums and strengthen'd his Stomach, so as to be able to suck the Breasts and digest the Milk of Alma Mater, he may be admitted an humble Retainer to the August House of Chichele, and allow'd to wait, as Clerk or Chorister, at that Table, where his Father had once the Honour of presiding as Subwarden.

THE END.



Ex antiquo lapide Hieroglyphico apud Coll: Ball:

I N D E X

OF THE

Books, Authors, and celebrated Persons quoted or mentioned in this *Vindication*.

Bbot, Archbishop. Acta Eruditorum. Albertus Magnus. Alciatus. Aldrovandus. Anastasius, Pope. Andreas Fulvius. Andrewe, Dr. Annales Vindelici. Aristotle. Arnobius. Aulus Gellius. Bacon, Lord. Bibliotheque choisiè. Bibliotheque universelle Baptista Campafulgosus. Bayle. Burnet, Bp. Burnet, Dr. Camden. Charles II. King. Charles V. Emperor. Chichele, Archbishop. Christianity as old as Creation. Chronological History. Cicero. Collection of Letters. Collection of Prophecies. Cato's Diffichs.

Corderius's Colloquies. Cræfus, his Son. Dee, Dr. Dick, the Author's Son, Differtation on Oriuna. Divine, Rev. and learned. Duck, Dr. Dukes of Arfehot. Edward VI. King. Elizabeth, Queen. Evans, Rice. Faustina the younger. Fontenelle. Francis I. King of France. Gaffendus. Gaudentius Merula. Gentleman of Eton. Gentlemen of the French Acade m_{V} . Gentlemen of another Society. Geoffry of Monmouth. Gevartius. Henry V. King. Henry VI. King. Henry VIII. King. Horstius. Inquisitive Goldsmith. Jortin, Rev. Mr. Lilly, Mr. Lipfius.

I N D E X

Lucian. Marcus Aurelius. Mary, Queen. Memoires pour l'Histoire, &c. Merlin. Nardini. Nicholas, St. Nicholfon, Bishop. Nixon. Nostradamus. Nouvelles de la Republique, &c. Oldmixon. Oliver, Charles. Oliver, Francis. Parker, Arcbishop. Philomela. Philosophical Dialogue, &c. Peireskius. Pierius. Pliny. POINTER, Rey. Mr. Politianus. Pontanus.

Rights of the Christian Church. Scaliger, J. E. Sermons, Rev. Mr. B'sa Sprat, Bishop. S-n, Rev. Mr. Sibylline Verses. Shakespear. Solinus. Tanner, Bishop. Tindal. Tolus. Univerfal Monthly Register. Vossius. Walfingham Thomas. Warburton, Rev. Mr. Well-Wishers to the Mallard. Willughby, Mr. W. B. Efq; and L L. D. W-e, Rev. Mr. Wotton. Young Nobleman.

Young Seceders.

ERRATUM. Page 30. Line 25. for plumones read pulmones.

Advertisement.

Speedily will be publish'd, (Price Three-pence)

A N Apology for the Conduct of the Rev. J. S—n, A. M. wherein the Reasons and particular Circumstances, which provok'd him to make use of some unguarded and unjustifiable expressions, (highly reflecting on the Mallard of All-Souls, and the Author of the Vindication) in a Sermon preach'd before the University of Oxford, at St. Mary's, on Sunday the 16th of December, 1750, will be fully explain'd, and submitted to the Candour of the Publick.



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT LOS ANGELES THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

This book is DUE on the last date stamped below

QL DISCHARGE UPL MAY 1 6 1979 DISCHARGE UR

MAY 97

Form L-9 20m-1,'41(1122)

> AT LOS ANGELES





